

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent

In Re Application of: Conf. No.: 5699 Robert S. Chau et al. Application No: 09/654,315 Examiner: Tran, Thien F. Filed: September 1, 2000 Art Unit: 2811 For: **DEVICE STRUCTURE AND** METHOD FOR REDUCING SILICIDE ENCROACHMENT Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In response to the Final Office Action mailed August 6, 2003 and the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 filed concurrently herewith, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter this preliminary amendment and consider the remarks prior to examination of the above referenced case

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